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**Subject:** Council Meeting Testimony re Bill 15

**Kuli'ou'ou / Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board #2**

Testimony relating to Bill 15 CD1

Relating to the Executive Operating Budget & Program FY 7/1/10 to 6/30/11

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Good afternoon Chair Apo, Vice Chair Garcia and Honorable Councilmembers,

My name is Bob Chuck, and I am Chairman of the **Kuli'ou'ou / Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board #2** which strongly opposes the planned funding cuts for the operating costs of the office for the neighborhood boards, commission and its staff. **Neighborhood Board #2** represents over 6,000 households, with a population of almost 20,000 people in East Honolulu.

As you know, the Neighborhood Board System began when the Revised City Charter of Honolulu called for the establishment of a nine-member Neighborhood Commission in 1973. The Commission developed a Neighborhood Plan with a uniform system of neighborhood boards on O'ahu. The purpose of the Neighborhood Plan and the neighborhood boards is to increase and assure effective citizen participation in the decisions of government. For over 25 years, neighborhood boards have done just that and been a voice for their communities and act in an advisory capacity with regard to

- the delivery of basic government services and programs;
- economic development and land use questions of their community;
- identify, prioritize, review and make recommendations of capital improvement projects; and
- zoning, planning, permitting and other land use concerns.

Neighborhood board meetings serve as community forums by the promotion of open expression and discussion of ideas relating to government and community processes and activities by the board members and public. During my tenure as Chair of **Neighborhood Board #2**, after listening to members of the community, **Neighborhood Board #2** has voted to support numerous causes, including

- Placement of playground equipment at Niu Valley Park and rehabilitation of city streets with notable, long-term sub-standard road conditions in Niu Valley;
- Legislation to restore access to and along the shoreline where induced vegetative overgrowth inhibits access and use of the beach;
- Banning all commercial shark tours;

- Opposing the legalization of TVRs and B&Bs in O'ahu's residential neighborhoods;
- Revoking the 1986 Special Management Area Permit issued to Kuilima Resort Co. due to the passage of time and changed conditions of the North Shore and the island of O'ahu;
- Restricting development in our Conservation Districts and on Preservation land; and
- Preventing any governmental entity from selling culturally significant Native Hawaiian treasures such as fishponds.

**Neighborhood Board #2** has accomplished several projects which made our community safer, including

- A bridge Wailupe Elementary School needed to allow the children to cross from school to their playground safely and quickly;
- Remedying a dangerous red light running situation that existed at the Niu Valley Peninsula intersection; and
- Opposing a development with the potential danger of rocks and boulders putting children at 'Āina Haina Elementary at risk.

In addition, **Neighborhood Board #2** has successfully worked with the City to change TheBus schedules and stops to accommodate our residents.

**Neighborhood Board #2** respectfully requests that funding for the operating costs of the office for the neighborhood boards, the Commission and its staff be maintained for the fiscal year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. There is still much good work to be done for our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.